

# THE SUMTER BANNER.

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## THE SUMTER BANNER: PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING, BY WILLIAM J. FRANCIS.

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### AGRICULTURAL.

From the American Agriculturist.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF WORN-OUT LANDS.

An opinion has prevailed, that when lands are worn out by culture, without manuring, they become worthless, and cannot be restored. I herewith furnish an example of the fallacy of this opinion. Four years ago, I purchased a farm of little more than forty acres, near the north edifice of Union College, and about a mile and a quarter from my dwelling in town. It had been called the *Pennyroyal* farm by way of ridicule. This farm was chiefly occupied with thorn bushes, briars, and other worthless shrubbery. It had been cultivated by the former owner so long as it would produce buckwheat, or anything, without any manure.

A small patch enclosed with the garden, was in rye, and had been sown with fox-tail (commonly called timothy), and I sowed fox-tail again on the rye; the next season grass. When the hay was in cock, my farmer asked his man to take the hay as a reward for mowing it, which he reluctantly accepted. The other parts of the farm were pastured, producing some sour grass, moss, and bushes. We plowed a few acres of the sward, and planted it with Indian corn. A part was manured with poultice, and some with plaster, ashes, and manure. Where the poultice was applied, it took the lead greatly for awhile, and a good crop. The following crop was oats, and good. We then put on a good coat of barn-yard manure, plowed and sowed it with winter wheat, the yield of which was very fine, and about thirty bushels to the acre. No better wheat was seen in this region. We have put on the cultivated part of the farm from two to three hundred wagon loads of yard and stable manure annually.

The farm is high land, and an inclined plane to the west. The same rising slope east, with the adjoining part of this farm, has a stone quarry, about two feet below the surface. The depth of soil increases as it declines to the west. The rains and melted snows flowed over the whole surface, when I took possession. The soil is generally of stiff clay. In April, it was so wet, that when walking on the grass, the water would wet over the shoes. I opened a ditch along the east bounds, which conducted the surface water to the road. I then made a number of ditches, of three and a half to four feet deep, and covered them, after laying a drain of stone large enough for a cart to pass through. The ditches were laid with stone and a stone cover then straw, or turf, the grass-side down, before covering with earth. The ditches yield a regular and clear stream till June or July. The land becomes sufficiently dry for the plow and meadow, and produces bountifully.

A meadow, in a detached piece towards the west, I ditched in a similar manner, and it yielded a pure stream till midsummer. The former owner came to see it mowed, and said, that he never before saw the timothy *carved out*, nor of half so large a growth. This was the effect of draining only. I had not manured the meadow. This meadow had not been plowed before. My crops have been as good as those of our best farmers. I have set some hundreds of plum, pear, peach, quince, and apple trees, on the farm, and grafted the old orchard, intending to make it a fruit farm.

An opinion has also prevailed, that the old and best pears have *run out*, as the saying is, and have become worthless. This is also an error. If the old trees which produce poor fruit, are well manured, they will be restored to their former value, and yield good fruit, large and fine. Fry it, as I have done with my pennyroyal farm. It is a common opinion, that after setting trees the work is finished. Trees profit by manure, as other vegetables do. Feed bountifully, and you may reap bountifully. Everything possessing life, whether animal, bird, or vegetable; whether living on land, in the air, or in the water, must eat, drink, and breathe, to sustain life. An oyster, or clam, requires very little air; deprive them

of it, and they perish. Land, animals and vegetables must not be suffocated with water, nor those of the water by air. Agricultural papers have done much to improve the system of tillage. Farmers will profit, and be well rewarded beyond their cost, by reading them regularly. I gathered quinces to-day, in my garden, in town, and found the largest to measure 12 3/4 inches in circumference, and weighed 15 1/2 ounces. DAVID TOMLINSON. Schenectady, October 22d, 1846.

#### ROCK SALT.

All who keep domestic animals, are aware of the necessity of supplying them regularly with salt. Various means have been tried to effect this desirable object; but so long as the ordinary kinds are used, it cannot be done without considerable extra trouble, attended with more or less waste. We have tried all sorts of ways on our farm—the manger, troughs, both under and without cover, together with some few patent inventions, and yet we could never contrive to place this necessary condiment where it could at all times be accessible to stock, till we procured the English rock or mineral salt.

This salt is as hard as alum. A lump of it may be placed in the field, where it will lie for years exposed to all sorts of weather, with but little waste. It is therefore just the thing for horses, cattle, and sheep. Place a lump in the rack or manger, in a trough, or in a field, and there it will remain till it is gradually licked away. By using this kind of salt, the stock will always take it as they desire; nor can they get it in excess, or suffer injury from it as often the case with the use of most other kinds. We have recently had a small quantity of this article sent us from England, and in answer to numerous inquiries, add, that we can supply it at one dollar per 100 lbs.—*American Agriculturist.*

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### BE NOT OVER NICE.

Young gents, if you don't wish to be, For ruinant of your years, The thing that Franklin used to call A "half a pair of shears," Pray let me whisper in your ear A word of good advice— Don't think to find perfection here, And be not over nice. Take warning by my cousin Jack, Nor in his footsteps tread; Oh, how I've teased and talked to him, And tried to make him wed; But he is so PARTICULAR, So ev'ry of all the fair, He'll be a blue old bachelor In spite of all my care.

One is in height a mountain oak; A second like a tulip; A third has got a mammoth foot; Another's nose is snub. One cannot brew, or bake, or sweep, Another cannot play; Another's always in the suds; Another quite too gay.

Miss A good dough-nuts cannot make; Miss B is said to paint, Miss C is wilder than the winds, Miss D too much a saint; Miss E is careless in her dress, Miss F is too precise, Miss G is prone to take Scotch snuff, Miss H is fond of dice. Miss I is silent as a doll, Miss J a perfect parrot, Miss K has flaxen colored locks, Miss L's are like a carrot. Miss M is always looking grum, Miss N forever giggling, Miss O is stiffer than a stake, Miss P is loose and wriggling.

Miss Q is cold as wintry ice, Miss R too fond of fawning, Miss S has got defective teeth, Miss T was caught yawning, Miss U for eyes has got an owl's, Miss V a pair that squint, Miss W's temper's soft as wax, Miss X's as steel and flint.

Miss Y is past a certain age, Miss Z a thoughtless miss, And so with all some folk he finds, Nor fancies that or this. He's managed so with all the girls, That they are all provoked; And sure I am that ne'er he'll be With any maiden yoked.

So gents, I prithee take good heed— Avoid Jack's grievous errors, And soon you'll find that pretty girls Are clad no more in terrors. And when you meet a sparkling eye, With soul and feigning lighted, Remember that it speaks a hint Which may not well be slighted.

POLLY.

A ball, 30 inches in circumference, composed principally of hair, was recently taken from the stomach of a fine cow, belonging to R. T. Blanchard, Esq., of Maysville, which died a few days since.

#### From the New York Spirit of the Times. RIGGING A JUDGE. Scrap from the Note Book of a Missouri Lawyer.

Among the members of the bar was young H— whose round smooth face, soft skin, and clear complexion, gave him a rather feminine cast of countenance. And the mode in which he dressed his hair heightened the effect of his peculiar physiognomy. In his childhood he received an injury on his head from a scald, which ever after prevented the growth of any hair, on the scalded spot. On every other part of his head his hair was of the most luxuriant growth. This blemish he was always very careful to conceal by combing his hair over the naked place and fastening it with a lady's comb.

But it must not be inferred that H— was feminine in disposition; for a more manly, generous-hearted, good natured fellow never lived.—He was always full of fun, and always ready to enter into any joke that was going.

The landlady at one of our usual stopping places on the Circuit, was a very precise, formal widow, considerably past the prime of life, who valued herself very much for her strict propriety of deportment, and the respectability of her house. To do Mrs. L— justice, it must be admitted that her house was the most orderly, and the neatest in its arrangements of any in the circuit.

But some of us thought that her extreme nicety of demeanor bordered rather on prudery; and the great pains she always took to provide for the comfort of the Judge, who was a formal old bachelor, manifested a preference not altogether to the taste of some of the younger members of the bar, who thought themselves equally as well entitled as the Judge to the kind consideration of the landlady. Some of them, therefore, determined to indulge themselves in a joke, at the first convenient opportunity, at the expense of the Judge and our hostess.

The appearance of H— on our circuit suggested a convenient opportunity for playing off the long contemplated prank. As H— never had been "victimized" on our circuit, no scruples were entertained on his account.

We had been riding during the greater part of a cold uncomfortable day, over an extensive prairie, exposed to a sharp cutting wind, when we approached within a few miles of the house of Mrs. C—, whom we intended honoring with our company for that night.

F— and B— suggested that it would be better to ride ahead and give Mrs. L— timely warning of our approach, in order that she might have ample time to prepare the supper and make the necessary preparations for stowing us away for the night. This was at once acceded to by all, and F—, B— and myself offered ourselves as the "advanced guard."

Mounted on fine horses, and going at a rapid pace we soon arrived at the house. Our landlady received us in her usual stuff, formal manner, and soon commenced making enquiries about the Judges of whose health and speedy arrival we gave satisfactory assurances.

We found as usual, that the best bed in the house, and the best stall in the stable, were reserved for the comfort of the Judge and his horse.

"Mrs. L—," observed F— in a very serious manner, "how long have you have been acquainted with Judge T—?" "Ever since he has been in this circuit," replied our hostess.

"Mrs. L—," continued F—, "I have known you for for several years, and have always entertained a high respect for you, and I deem it my duty to apprise you of a circumstance that may deeply affect your character, and the standing of your house."

"My character and the standing of my house? why, what do you mean, Mr. F—? Who has dared to say anything against my character, or the standing of my house?"

"No one that I know of," answered F—, "but I want to put you on your guard, Mrs. L— I have my doubts whether Judge T— is the man you take him to be. To come to the point, he is now travelling the circuit in company with a young woman, dressed in man's clothes, whom he is passing off for a young lawyer. He calls her Mr. H—, and they will be here in a few moments."

"Is it possible! can it be, Mr. F—, what Judge T— guilty of such conduct! Why, I have always regarded him as one of the most correct men I ever knew. It cannot be, Mr. F—."

"You will soon see, Madame to your satisfaction. I could not believe it myself when I first heard of the affair."

"Mr. F—," remarked the widow with great earnestness of manner, "Will Judge T— have the presumption to enter my house with such company?" "Doubtless he will, Madame," answered F— "for they have been travelling together for the past three weeks. But a short time ago I heard him remark to this young woman that he would take great pleasure in introducing her to you."

"He will—will he. I will let him know," exclaimed the widow with virtuous indignation,

that if he has no regard for his own character, I have some for mine. They shall not stay in my house."

F— had succeeded in working up the old lady to the right pitch, when the Judge, in company with H—, entered the house.

"Mrs. L—," observed the Judge with much cordiality of manner, "I am indeed very glad to see you looking so well. How have you been this fall? Allow me to introduce to you my young friend, Mr. H—, who intends to practice in our circuit."

The old lady drew herself up to her full height, and with a countenance expressing the utmost indignation, replied—

"Judge T— you are the last person from whom I should have expected such treatment.—You might at least have spared me this insult in my own house!"

"I insult, Mrs. L—," said the Judge, with the greatest astonishment, "What is the meaning of all this? I am entirely unconscious of having done anything to injure your feelings."

"You are indeed!" replied our hostess. "Do you not regard it as an insult to a lady, to introduce to her such a worthless creature as that?" pointing to H—, one of the most respectable young gentlemen in our country. You certainly must have—

"Respectable indeed!" interrupted our landlady, in a scornful and indignant manner. A worthless lousy dressed in man's clothes! And you, Judge T— to be travelling in company with such a creature. I never would have believed it, had I not beheld it with mine own eyes."

"My dear Madame," said H—, stepping forward, "you are mistaken—some one must have been imposing upon you."

"Don't "dear Madame" me—you brazen faced trollop," exclaimed the old lady. "How dare you come into my house! Out of my house this moment—you impudent jade!"

"Surely, Mrs. L—," said the Judge, endeavoring to stop this torrent of abuse, there is a strange mistake about all this. I assure you that you are entirely mistaken in your surmise. This young gentleman is well known to all the members of the bar, Mr. F— you are well acquainted with Mr. H— Where is Mr. F—?" The Judge looked around, but all had disappeared save the actors in this ludicrous scene.

As soon as we saw that matters were coming to a crisis, we all left the room, and going round the house placed ourselves in a position where we could hear all that was going on within, without any danger of being discovered.

In the mean time, Mrs. L— insisted that the Judge and H— should leave the house.

Not being able to find any one to aid them in their extremity, and despairing of convincing her of the mistake she was laboring under, they mounted their horses and rode on to the next house.

As soon as they had departed we returned to the house, and complimented the old lady on the resolution and spirit she had manifested on this trying occasion.

As she now had successfully repelled this assault upon her dignity and the character of her house, by driving out the invaders, she soon became resorted to her usual equanimity. She repeatedly declared, during the evening, that nothing but her own eyes would have convinced her, such had been her esteem for the character of Judge T—. She declared that under the same circumstances she would have driven from her house the President of the U. S.

That night F— slept in the bed reserved for the Judge, and regaled himself with many little delicacies set apart for the special use of her honor.

In truth, we who remained were treated with unusual attention. The Judge, who soon unraveled the mystery, was for a short time very indignant; but being very sensitive to ridicule, he promised forgiveness upon condition that we would not tell the story on the circuit.

H— however, said it was too good to keep although he was the principal sufferer.

Our hostess was for a long time unappeasable, but eventually was reconciled to us through the mediation of a handsome silk dress.

#### From the N. O. Commercial Times, Jan. 4.

#### IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

Arrival of the steamers *Virginia* and *Edith* from Brazos, the former the 27th, the latter the 29th ult.—Advance of Santa Anna on Saltillo—Hurried march of Generals Taylor, Wool, and Patterson, to reinforce General Worth; Probability of a great battle having been fought at or near Saltillo, &c. &c. By the arrival here on Friday evening last, of the steamer *Virginia*, Captain Smith, from Tampico via Brazos, which latter port she left on the 27th ult., and on Saturday night the steam propeller *Edith*, left the same, on the 29th, we have been put in possession of a variety of information, regarding the position of affairs at the distant points of the enemy's country occupied by our troops. It appears that Santa Anna has at length thrown off that sluggish inaction which, for the preceding three months, had kept him behind the for-

mations of San Luis Potosi, at the head of an army estimated at from 20 to 30,000 men. He has assumed the offensive, and seems disposed to bring the fortunes of his country to an issue, by seeking a conflict with the invading army. Santa Anna has acted with much acuteness in the advance which we have to chronicle. Finding the divisions of the American army separated by long distances from each other, he appears to have planned a surprise; and selecting General Worth's division, as his victim, being the farthest in advance, and therefore the most assailable, he hastily quits his entrenchments at the head of an overwhelming force, (25,000 men is said,) hoping to reach Saltillo, before reinforcements could be thrown forward, and crushing the small American force, by a single, well directed blow. His precautions were well taken. Reports were put in circulation that he had despatched a heavy body of troops to the metropolis, to overawe the Congress in their sittings; that another revolution was impending; that his presence was positively necessary in the city of Mexico, to counterbalance the influence of Herrera; that disaffection reigned in the ranks of his army, &c. &c. During this time, he was organizing the coup de main he meditated at Saltillo, flattering himself that the intelligence of his plan, and its complete success, would be made public together. Here he has been disappointed, for a sufficient interval of time, we trust, has occurred between the period when the news of his advance reached Saltillo, and that of his arrival there, to have enabled General Taylor to concentrate such a force at that point as to frustrate the Mexican's design. We have implicit confidence in the vigilance of General Worth to prevent a surprise; and a conflict between the hostile forces can only tend to bring things to an issue.

DISPATCH OF REINFORCEMENTS.—General Butler had sailed forth from Monterey at the head of all his troops to hasten to the relief of Gen. Worth, at Saltillo. With the same object in view, Gen. Lane left Camargo on the 22th, and Gen. Marshall on the 21st ult. with the entire garrison, excepting a small command under Captains Hunter and Swartout, deemed sufficient for its protection. It was stated, however, that Camargo was menaced by the Mexicans with an immediate attack.

PROBABILITY OF A BATTLE.—From the proximity of the hostile forces, it was confidently believed at Brazos, and it seems to us highly probable, that something like a decisive action has taken place between the Mexican and American armies, at or near Saltillo. General Taylor, in all likelihood, succeeded in reaching the latter place, in time to bring important relief; and as Gen. Wool's division by last accounts was at Parras, 115 miles distant, north and west, from Saltillo a junction must have been effected between him and Worth, before Santa Anna appeared before the walls. Worth's command amounted to 2000 men and upwards; Wool's to nearly 3000; and even with no other means to oppose Santa Anna and his 20 or 25,000 men, harassed by a long, and probably a forced march, a sufficient check would be given them, aided by the defenses of the town, to afford time for Gen. Taylor to come up. His arrival would herald other succor coming from Matamoros, Camargo, Monterey, &c. &c.; and if the conflict should be protracted a few days, there would probably be a field fight, which would be decisive of the war. On the whole, we look at the news as pregnant with interest; not without a slight dash of alarm, certainly; for the disparity of forces Worth's estimated command of 2000, and the whole Mexican army 20,000—at the first glance is tremendous; but confidence in the skill of our officers and the prowess of our troops, rises buoyant over all, making us rather rejoice at the onward movement of the Mexican, than regret the seeming advantage which it promised him in the surprise of our advanced guard at Saltillo, which he contemplated. Any thing is better to an invading force than that vis inertia—that Fabian system of warfare—which in invading great conflicts, keeps the troops in a continual state of uncertainty and alarm—wearing the mind out in conjectures, as to ultimate measures, devouring the contents of the treasury, and bringing down "the big wars that make ambition virtuous" to petty partisan forays, where science or tactics is replaced by cunning or address; and heroism itself degenerates into brutal ferocity.

There were at the date of the *Edith's* departure from Brazos, as is natural to be expected, many rumors regarding the relative position of the several divisions of our army; and Santa Anna's advancing force. By some it was asserted that he had sent on a body of 17,000 men to intercept Gen. Taylor; by others that the communications between Worth and Wool, between Saltillo and Parras, were interrupted, &c. &c. But they were based rather on impressions as to what he ought to do, as a military man, rather than on intelligence, as to what he really had done. Authentic information had arrived that, at latest dates, Gen. Worth with his whole force was within 90 miles of Saltillo; and as danger is always magnified in the mouth of rumor, it is very probable that Santa Anna's